

Climate Justice Times

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A Friends of the Earth International publication – demanding climate justice

NOAHs venner oversvømmer København

Mere end 5.000 aktivister fra over 20 forskellige lande demonstrerede lørdag d. 12. december sammen med NOAH og Friends of the Earth International i Flood for Climate Justice. De krævede klimaretfærdighed og et stop for falske løsninger som afladskøb.

Den spektakulære, blå flodbølge af mennesker strømmede gennem Københavns gader med en klar besked til beslutningstagerne om, at vi i en global klimaaftale ikke ønsker afladskøb, eller offsetting som det også kaldes.

Mr. Nnimmo Bassey, formand for Friends of the Earth International talte om de globale konsekvenser af klimaforandringerne og det faktum, at der i København netop nu forhandles og træffes beslutning om liv eller død for en stor del af verdens mindre udviklede lande.

”Det er opmuntrende – og nødvendigt – at se så mange mennesker fra hele verden står sammen mod falske løsninger i den globale klimaaftale og kræver klimaretfærdighed nu og her”, udtaler Palle Bendsen, klimatalsmænd for NOAH.

Demonstrationen Flood for Climate Justice har tydeligt vist, at der er folkelig opbakning til en klimaaftale, der anerkender de industrialiserede landes ansvar for den klimagæld, vi i industrilandene nu skal betale tilbage. NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark kræver, at en global klimaaftales indhold også afspejler udviklingslandenes krav og behov.



Thousands flood for climate justice

Flood of people from around the world demands climate justice and an end to offsetting

More than 5,000 activists from around the world joined the Friends of the Earth International ‘Flood for climate justice’ in Copenhagen to demand climate justice and an end to offsetting carbon emissions.

The spectacular, blue-coloured crowd flooded through the streets of the city with a clear message to decision makers that offsetting carbon emissions – the practice whereby rich industrialised countries pay developing countries to cut emissions rather than making cuts at home – is unfair, and will not lead to the cuts in greenhouse

gas emissions the world desperately needs.

Friends of the Earth International believes that carbon offsets, which currently form part of the international climate regime, will not lead to any overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Offsetting has no benefits for the climate or developing countries – it only benefits developed nations who want to continue emitting, and it seriously delays the just transition to a sustainable economy urgently needed in industrialised countries. Offsetting is an excuse for developed countries not to cut emissions at

home which is the only real solution to climate change.

Many offsetting projects have negative social or environmental consequences in developing countries, and some may lock developing countries into an increased use of fossil fuels for years to come. Furthermore, offsetting projects do not transfer money or technology to developing countries in a fair manner.

“To those who want to pollute at home and plant a tree somewhere we say no”

The ‘Flood for climate justice’ was made up of Friends of the Earth activists from all over the world, as well as allies of Friends of the Earth from a wide range of social and environmental movements, and a large number of Danish people. Participants, the majority of them dressed in blue ponchos, ‘flooded’ through the streets of

Copenhagen, in a colourful, procession carrying flags and banners, chanting “Demand Climate Justice” and “No Offsetting”. The event ended in front of the Danish Parliament, with a symbolic flooding of a giant ‘offsetting centre’ specially constructed in the square. The final moment was the creation of a massive banner reading “No Offsetting”.

Palle Bendsen from NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark, and one of the organisers of the flood, stated: “It is amazing to see so many people from around the world coming together to form a flood of public opinion against offsetting and to demand climate justice in Copenhagen. The flood for climate justice sends a clear signal to decision makers that the world is watching, and we expect them to find fair and strong solutions to the urgent climate crisis.”

Nnimmo Bassey, one of speakers at the event and Chair of Friends of the Earth International said: “To those who want to pollute at home and plant a tree somewhere we say no.”

More information at www.copenhagenflood.org

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Translations available at www.foei.org/climatejusticetimes

Friends of the Earth i Danmark – se bagsiden



Page 8 >>>



Hundreds of messages sent by communities and affected people around the world asking for climate justice now!

Page 5 >>>



Rich countries must drop their support for carbon offsetting.

Page 3 >>>

Friends of the Earth International is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 77 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. With over two million members and supporters around the world, we campaign on today's most urgent environmental and social issues. We challenge the current model of economic and corporate globalization, and promote solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

“It’s time to ACT NOW!” – Michelle Ferris, Friends of the Earth Costa Rica



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A world out of balance

After years of denial, the world is today confronted by the reality of climate change. And time is running out. Sadly, world leaders are playing politics with the future of humanity on the only habitat that we have.

The world is out of balance, not just economically but also environmentally. On one hand, the rich, developed countries are the major contributors to climate change, while on the other it is low-income communities in the developing countries that are already now being hit by the effects.

Environmental injustice is not a new phenomenon – it has been happening for at least 250 years. To add insult to injury, countries such as my own Nigeria have borne, and are still bearing, the toxic burden of fossil fuel extraction conducted by multi-national oil companies, as well as being on the frontline of the impacts of climate change.

Climate change and its devastating impacts are global problems, calling for global solutions. Putting millions of people in impoverished countries at risk as a result of the

rich part of the world’s growing power and consumption is simply not right. It’s unfair. That’s why Friends of the Earth activists all over the world are demanding climate justice.

At the moment, the countries in the European Union (EU) and the USA are collectively responsible for more than half of the carbon emissions in the Earth’s atmosphere. This is compared with the fact that the EU and USA have only one tenth of the world’s population. This imbalance becomes glaring when contrasted with the fact that the poorest 10% of the world’s population have contributed to less than 1% of these emissions.

“The world is out of balance, not just economically but also environmentally”

In Nigeria we have experienced this blatant injustice first hand, and so have I personally, during nearly 20 years of fighting against oil companies and human rights abuses

in the Niger Delta. The oil industry continues to operate in Nigeria, causing environmental damage as well as oppressing people that speak up against the exploitation. There are over 300 oil spills every year, most of them unreported. There is huge deforestation taking place, and gas flares from over 100 sources releasing toxic fumes.

Gas flares are nothing short of crimes against humanity. They roast the skies, kill crops and poison the air. These evil gas stacks pump greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, impacting the climate and placing everyone at risk. Gas flares go on because it is cheap to kill, as long as profits keep rising. That is the logic of Shell, Chevron and their cohorts.

For comparison it is useful to know that in 2005: USA’s per capita CO₂ emissions were 19.6 tons. Australia’s per capita CO₂ emissions were 18.4 tons. Japan’s per capita CO₂ emissions were 9.5 tons.

In contrast:

China’s per capita CO₂ emissions were 3.9 tons. India’s per capita CO₂ emissions were 1.1 tons. Nigeria’s per capita CO₂ emissions were 0.5 tons.

Even though oil has generated an estimated \$600 billion for Nigeria since the 1960s, the majority of the Niger Delta’s 31 million people still live in poverty, without access to clean water or proper health care.

We hope that leaders of nations of the world will wake up, listen to the peoples of the world and stop dancing to the tunes of climate entrepreneurs seeking profit from the crisis rather than curbing emissions at the source. This is the time for real action: deep cuts in emissions at home in industrialised countries, finance mitigation measures in the unjustly impacted countries and regions and a move away from non-renewable energy sources, especially fossil fuels. It is time to leave new oil in the soil, coal in the hole and tar sands in the land.

Editorial: “Leave new oil in the soil, coal in the hole and tar sands in the land.”

By Nnimmo Bassey,
Chair of Friends of the Earth
International and Executive and
Director of Friends of the Earth
Nigeria

A pathway to climate justice in Europe

Achieving climate justice in Europe can go hand in hand with a happier, healthier society. Vastly improved public transport, more cycle and pedestrian-friendly streets, cleaner air, better public services, and at least 40% domestic emission cuts are possible by 2020. But it will require a brave move away from the inadequate business-as-usual policies European governments have offered for dealing with climate change to date. These are the findings of research by Stockholm Environment Institute in partnership with Friends of the Earth Europe.

The researchers set out to show that at least 40% domestic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are possible by 2020. This is the type of deep cuts science says are needed to avert a climate catastrophe. And they wanted to prove it can be done without resorting to nuclear power, agrofuels, offsetting or carbon capture and storage. These false solutions divert efforts from safe, proven alternatives and do not address the root problem of the over-consumption of the world’s resources by rich countries.

The study proves that 40% reductions by 2020 and 90% reductions by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, can be done. It also assesses the European Union’s (EU) fair share

of the finances needed to support the developing world to tackle its climate challenge and address poverty. Aggressive actions to cut emissions at home coupled with adequate financing for developing countries are the two-fold obligation which Europe must fulfil to achieve climate justice.

Europe’s share of the finances for developing countries for mitigating and adapting to climate change amounts to between €150 billion and €450 billion per year by 2020 according to the study, or 1% to 3% of the EU’s GDP.

“The scale and speed of changes required may seem daunting, and indeed it will require a mobilisation of Europe’s economies, but the potential costs of inaction are so large that doing nothing presents a far more implausible and dangerous future pathway for Europe,” said Charlie Heaps, lead author of the study and senior scientist at Stockholm Environment Institute.

To get to at least 40% emissions reductions within 10 years and 90% by 2050, the research points to radical improvements in energy efficiency, the fast phase-out of fossil fuels, a dramatic shift towards renewable energy, and lifestyle changes. Europe could get nearly a quarter of its energy from renew-

able sources by 2020, and almost three quarters by 2050 – this compares to only 10% in 2010.

Significant changes to the way people in Europe live their lives and organise their communities could bring about a big drop in the average emissions per person. By 2050 the average emissions per person in Europe could be one metric tonne of CO₂ equivalent. This is around eight times lower than today, and is comparable to the average emissions of someone living in India. The types of lifestyle changes described in the study can be overwhelmingly positive and allow Europe to reduce consumption whilst increasing wellbeing.

“40% domestic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are possible by 2020”

Energy efficiency measures in European housing could decrease energy use by 2.5% every year without a loss of comfort. By 2050, Europe’s rail network could be more than doubled and there could be a shift to public transport with less than half of trips being made by car compared to 75% in 2005.

Public transport could be much more convenient and higher quality. Virtually all cars could be electrified by 2050 contributing to a 32% reduction in emissions from transport, which is currently the sector with the fastest growing emissions. At the same time this would make streets more pleasant, safer and easier to navigate for pedestrians and cyclists.

Other benefits would include new jobs in construction and engineering to build this new low carbon society, and energy savings resulting in lower bills. Europe would also become a more equal place with a closing of the gap between the richest and poorest countries as nations would work together to tackle the challenge of climate change.

People living in this Europe of the future would enjoy a higher quality of life, inspired by the fact that the danger of climate change can be averted without compromising on happiness – measured in terms of life satisfaction rather than GDP.

The scenario described in the report is one possible pathway amongst many for achieving a Europe that is on track to meet its commitments to avert climate catastrophe and is also cleaner, healthier and more socially just than today.

The message of the research is clear – emissions reductions of at least 40% below 1990 levels within Europe by 2020, and 90% by 2050, can be achieved. Economic costs and technical feasibility can no longer be excuses for politicians to stand still.

But the changes needed will not happen spontaneously. We require brave political leadership. According to Magda Stoczkiewicz, director of Friends of the Earth Europe, European politicians can have no more excuses for not living up to their historical responsibility and doing what is necessary to protect the planet for future generations.

“Europe and the developed world are still very far from doing what is needed although the technological opportunities are waiting to be exploited and the economic costs are eminently bearable. It appears to be only the lack of political will that prevents Europe from rising to the challenge of achieving climate justice,” she said.

Read more about Friends of the Earth Europe and Stockholm Environment Institute’s study ‘Europe’s share of the climate challenge’ at www.thebigask.eu

By Francesca Gater, Friends of the Earth Europe



“I have a dream of a world in which every newborn child will have the same opportunities, will be free from hunger, thirst and insecurity, and where the world’s ecosystems are respected and allowed to thrive.” – **Eva Ressel, Young Friends of the Earth Germany**

Offsetting: the worst magic trick in history

By Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Rich countries must drop their support for carbon offsetting. Now is the time for them to take real action at home

Carbon offsetting schemes come in many shapes and sizes – power plants in India, wind farms and coal-fired power plants in China, the capture of flared gas in Nigeria, or the purchase of rainforest in Amazonia. The thing that all these projects have in common is that they don’t work; they’re the worst magic trick in history.

In the Amazonia region, the traditional way of life of indigenous communities in the rainforest is under threat as industrialised countries are allowed to offset their emissions by buying forest ‘carbon credits’ from developing countries. Offsetting schemes in the shape of gas power plants in India, and coal-fired power plants in China, will lock these developing countries into the path of high fossil-fuel development, rather than low carbon futures.

The latest climate science clearly shows rich countries need to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2020 (based on 1990 levels) at home, with no offsetting. Investing in carbon offsetting in the belief that this will tackle climate change is a false solution as it will not deliver the real cuts in the emissions of developed countries that are desperately needed to protect people around the world.

Furthermore, as part of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM),

carbon offsetting cannot guarantee the same level of carbon cuts in the developing country as would have been made in a developed country. It is almost impossible to prove that most offsetting projects would not have happened without the offset finance. Without this guarantee the net effect is that greenhouse gas emissions are increasing – because the CDM credit allows the developed country to continue polluting. The climate loses.

“Developed countries must make urgent and deep emission cuts at home”

Offsetting is also dangerously delaying the switch to low-carbon societies in rich countries, because it weakens incentives to implement strong climate policies or prevent high-carbon investments. A switch to a low-carbon model in developed countries in time to prevent catastrophic climate change requires that they make major investments now and over the next 10 years. Yet, offsetting means that those countries with most historical responsibility for climate change can delay taking strong action until at least 2020. Locking in their high-carbon infrastructure will have severe consequences for the global climate and developed country economies for much longer.

More information on the problems of offsetting carbon emissions can be found in the publication: “Carbon Offsetting: A dangerous distraction” www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/dangerous_distraction.pdf

Perhaps most shockingly, in many cases offsetting is not helping developing countries take a low-carbon path. In fact a large proportion of CDM revenues are subsidising carbon-intensive industries, or projects building fossil-fuel power stations. For example, offsetting funds are supporting the development of a mammoth coal-fired power generation complex in India which will emit 700 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in its lifetime – almost the same amount by which the UK has pledged to reduce its emissions over the next 15 years. The Kwale gas project in Nigeria intends to obtain CDM credits for capturing illegally flared gas.

Governments of the global North are trying to justify offsetting as a cost effective way to prevent runaway climate change even though it simply cannot work. It has no benefits for the climate or developing countries, and only benefits developed countries, private investors and major polluters who want to continue business as usual.

Carbon offsetting means that cuts on the scale required will not happen and that climate change won’t be stopped – exacerbating the effects of climate change on, predominantly, those who are least responsible for causing it. Instead, developed countries must make urgent and deep emission cuts at home. Carbon offsetting has no part to play in a just international agreement to fight climate change.



“Offsetting, offsetting, it’s not fair. Makes sure the rich don’t do their share!”

5,000 people on the flood for climate justice, Copenhagen



Banking on the climate crisis

Public money to fight climate change must go through the United Nations, not the World Bank

By Karen Orenstein, Friends of the Earth US

Money and climate change are inextricably linked. Money fuels climate change: the dominant economic model drives global competition for energy and other resources which is at the root of the climate crisis. This leads to degradation of the environment and abuses of human rights, and this in turn reduces human and ecological ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, lack of money inhibits the creation of low carbon societies and grassroots resilience around the world.

Governments engaged in climate negotiations are concentrating their efforts on the design and development of new climate finance mechanisms. Certain countries hope to benefit from private finance which will cover some of the escalating costs of mitigating and adapting to climate change. The costs countries will face as a result of climate change include investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, methods to reduce deforestation, changing food production and water management practices, and the implementation of disease control and prevention systems.

With all this attention being given to climate finance issues, the World Bank has become intent on making itself the world’s climate banker. It wants to gain control of the lion’s share of these funds. This is despite the fact that the World Bank is the largest lender for oil and gas projects and a major actor in deforestation. Both of these practices fuel climate change. Climate finance channelled through the World Bank is increasing the debt burden on the global South, as developing countries are being obliged to take out new climate-related loans to cover the costs of climate change, even for dealing with its impacts.

Why should countries that are not responsible for climate change be burdened with more debts to deal with it? And why should lending countries be permitted to count these loans, which will have to be repaid, as new climate finance for developing countries?

The deepest irony of all is that the developed countries owe developing countries a much larger and longer standing debt. Their excessive use of fossil fuels has resulted

in the emission of excessive quantities of greenhouse gases into our shared atmosphere. This is the so-called ‘climate debt’. It is rich nations that have created the climate crisis, but it is being felt most sharply in impoverished countries and will be borne by future generations.

“The World Bank has become intent on making itself the world’s climate banker”

Climate finance mechanisms put in place so far, such as the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme, have been remarkably ineffective. Yet they remain popular in the global North precisely because they offer a way for wealthy countries, elites and companies, including banks, investors and financiers, to ‘buy’ or profit from the transition to low carbon development. These institutions are not addressing the root



causes of climate change – industrialisation, the over-consumption of fossil fuels by the world’s wealthy minority, and the increasing commoditisation of life.

Tackling climate change will involve dismantling the current corporate-led economic model. Measures to address climate change have to be based on a fundamental transition to equitable and sustainable societies if they are to succeed. Climate finance should be used to enable communities to manage their local resources sustainably, including energy, forests and water. It should prioritise local technologies and knowledge, and empower Indigenous Peoples, women and other vulnerable populations.

In order to truly repay the climate debt, climate finance must come

from public sources in developed countries and be new and additional to existing aid commitments. Financial flows from the Clean Development Mechanism are already being counted once to compensate for lack of action in developed countries, and therefore must not be allowed to also count towards developed countries’ financial obligations to developing countries. Private sector money should not be accounted under public climate finance. Governments must commit to creating a multilateral fund for climate change financing under the United Nations instead of the World Bank. The UNFCCC, which is guided by internationally agreed principles based on historical responsibility, must be the main international framework for addressing climate change.

“Every year, 300,000 people are dying due to the consequences of climate change. Politicians need to act, urgently and drastically.” – **Mauro Pintos, Friends of the Earth Uruguay**

A letter from Young Friends of the Earth

Hello world!

This is Young Friends of the Earth speaking. We are a grassroots network of young people and youth organisations working together on social and environmental justice, made up of young people from all over the world, both from the global North and the global South. We're concerned about our future and the future of our children.

Alongside local communities, Indigenous Peoples and women, youth are a vulnerable group – our future is at stake here. We need the

international community to agree to take sufficient action to protect the global climate for young people – now and in the future. We want international and intergenerational climate justice.

In the year 2050 we don't want to be living in an unjust and polluted world. This is why we are demanding that rich, developed countries take responsibility for the climate change that they have caused, and start to repay their climate debt – entitling developing countries, affected communities and young people their right to a sustainable

future. We cannot delay action and simply pass the problem on to the younger generation of today and the young people of the future. We cannot afford to let the ecological debt grow further.

We totally reject false solutions. They will only lock young people into living in a fossil-fuel dependent future. We say no to nuclear, no to large-scale hydro, and no to agrofuels. We say no to offsetting. We say no to business as usual at the expense of the interests of people and the planet. We say yes to action now!

All across the world young people are standing up for justice and taking action to reclaim their futures. Young Friends of the Earth brings together youth to work together to mobilise, train and enable young people to share knowledge and ideas – to form one united voice demanding action to secure our future and the future of generations to come.

This is about our future. This is about reality. We need to talk about what is necessary, not about what is politically easy. And we need to do it for the youth and for the future.

Act now!

Young Friends of the Earth



“Leaders and negotiators must move beyond what is politically viable and do what is required by science. We need real and radical global change and we must ACT NOW.”

Jasmin Lauwaert from Belgium, Young Friends of the Earth Europe



“Young people don't see climate change as a fight for economic interests; we see it as a fight for our future, our survival! And the survival of future generations is not negotiable.”

Susi Hammel from Germany, Young Friends of the Earth Europe



My island in the sun

Changing weather patterns and rising sea levels are causing havoc among low lying states of the Pacific. Maria Tiimon reports from Kiribati, one of the groups of islands already affected

I grew up in Kiribati, a tiny island nation in the Pacific Ocean. I now live in Sydney, Australia, but in April this year, I went back to visit my family – and I was shocked by what I saw. Many of the trees are dying out, including the breadfruit which is so important to the local diet, and wells have dried up. The mangroves which I remember so well from my childhood are almost gone. There was a favourite place I used to go with my dad when I was growing up, but this has disappeared under the sea.

What has happened? Kiribati, like many Pacific states, has been suffering from severe drought as rainfall patterns become more variable. Those with long memories don't recall it ever being like this. “When I was young the weather was not like this at all,” says Iorim Tabuae, a Kiribati elder. “It was not as hot as this. The heat is killing us. The weather changes a lot and nowa-

days you cannot predict it anymore.”

Rising sea levels are also taking their toll. The highest land on the islands that make up Kiribati is only three metres above sea level. High spring tides are contaminating farmland and saltwater is finding its way into the wells that remain, making the drinking water brackish.

Homes and a hospital have been flooded and people have had narrow escapes. “Last year, I and other friends were playing cards,” says Iorim. “We noticed the tide was much higher than in previous seasons, and then all of a sudden we saw huge waves coming towards us. We all jumped, grabbed suitcases, boxes and other important things and ran away from the sea water.”

“I really thought it was the end of the world,” says Katarina Tirio,

who was playing cards with Iorim. “The waves came right to the house and didn't stop there but went right to the main road which stands in



“There are countries that have benefitted from polluting the atmosphere. We are paying the ultimate price for this”

the middle of the island.”

Last century, sea levels rose 17cm simply due to the increasing volume of warming water. But disintegrating glaciers and ice sheets will add further to sea level rise. Already, the Pacific's Carteret Islands are being abandoned in what is thought to be the first evacuation due to climate change.

What will happen to my country if the water keeps on rising? As Iorim puts it: “There are places where we have had to move houses inland. Our islands are so tiny we are afraid that we'll fall off the other side into the sea.”

There are more than 100,000 people living on Kiribati and my people don't want to move out. They love their country. And anyway, where will they go?

An in-depth study by Oxford University predicted that, at a conservative estimate, the number of people displaced by climate change would increase over the next 50 years to 200 million. This is a global problem and not just related to my part of the world.

I am now traveling the world as part of the Pacific Calling Partnership to tell people what is happening to low lying islands in the Pacific. The people of the Pacific islands have contributed little to global warming and the industrialised countries need to recognise this. As Anote Tong, president of Kiribati has said: “There are countries that have benefitted from polluting the atmosphere. We at the other end of the scale are paying the ultimate price for this. Industrialised countries need to treat us like human beings and do something about climate change now. Right now.”



Maria Tiimon works for Pacific Calling Partnership at the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education in Sydney www.erc.org.au/pcp

The Centre aims to ensure key polluters in the developed world recognise their responsibility for climate change and highlight why they should lead in cutting emissions first – a key strand of Friends of the Earth International's campaign for climate justice.



© Hector Pistache

“People say we have a problem with the rising sea. But, now I see that is not the problem. It's the money. We do not have the money and we do not have the technology to solve the problem. I will accept the fact that the water is rising; I have to. But, just because the water is rising does not mean I have to turn and run; we need to find a solution. We need to face the problem.”

Ok, the water is rising. But the people in Kiribati have a strong connection to the land, and the sea, we won't just get up and leave. We need solutions: number one, cut emissions, number two, provide the money and technology.”

Pelenise Alofa Pilitati, born in Fiji, currently lives in Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati. She is currently Manager of the Kuaaoki Foundation Enterprise, and Chairperson for Churches Education Director's Association in Kiribati, and advocates for the Pacific Islanders and their rights and lands.



A collection of human banners from schools in Malta, collected by FoE Malta



Climate capsule

Hundreds of messages, in many languages and forms, have been collected by communities and affected people around the world demanding climate justice now! Friends of the Earth International has built a 'Climate Capsule' with all these voices: an installation and an interactive game will show the communities' mandates for climate justice and will allow people to add their voices to this global claim. Here are just some of those messages.

You can see the climate capsule online: www.foei.org



Clockwise from top left: FoE Finland, FoE Scotland, FoE Scotland, Young FoE Netherlands, FoE Japan



An eco-mural from FoE Columbia. Background letters from schools in Auchtertyre, Loch Duich and Inverness, in Scotland.

“It’s a question of justice, we must cut carbon emissions at home instead of buying carbon credits elsewhere.” – **Susann Scherbarth, Friends of the Earth Europe**

The 'big melt' – climate change and the Himalayas

Global warming is already having a big impact on Mount Everest and the Himalayas. Glaciers are melting creating floods that endanger the local people. But the big melt also means a big dry as these 'water towers' of Asia lose their capacity to provide water to the giant rivers in the summer months

The glaciers and ice fields of the Himalayan mountains and the Tibetan Plateau (the Greater Himalayas) store the third-greatest volume of fresh water in the world, after the Arctic and Antarctic polar regions. They are warming at two-to-four times the global average rate, and if warming continues along the current path, the Himalayan glaciers will melt at an accelerating rate until they eventually disappear. Many will be gone before mid-century and it is possible they will be entirely lost by 2100.

The consequences are well understood and include short-term increases in run-off into the major river systems, followed by long-term decreases, with catastrophic impacts. The potential loss of this water resource constitutes one of the greatest threats to humanity from global warming.

The eight largest river systems in Asia have their sources in the Greater Himalayas. Glaciers increase in volume during winter

and shrink in summer, ensuring a regular seasonal pattern of melt-water flow into these rivers, especially during spring. During summer and autumn they provide a vital backup water supply if the monsoon fails. This makes the Greater Himalayan ice fields a critical resource for more than one billion people.

But, the Himalayas straddle some of the world’s poorest regions, with the plains below them densely populated. Average income per-capita across the region is around US\$1,000 per year. These nations and communities have limited capacity to cope with the severe impacts of floods, followed by reduced water supplies.

These impacts on the Greater Himalayas will undermine water and food security across much of Asia, and contribute to large-scale human displacement, yet those same nations who will experience the worst effects are amongst the least responsible. It reinforces the call of developing countries for

climate justice.

Developed countries which represent less than one fifth of the world’s population have emitted almost three quarters of all emissions to date, and they need to accept their historical responsibility towards the developing world. Climate justice will be achieved when the countries that have the most responsibility historically for causing climate change do the most to prevent further damage. This can be achieved through substantially reducing their own emissions at home. But even deep cuts in emissions in rich countries will leave very little atmospheric space for poorer countries to safely develop, so the industrialised world must also recognise the rights of devel-



“The glaciers around Everest are disappearing and our way of life is being threatened.”

Pemba Dorje Sherpa, the world’s fastest Mount Everest climber whose home is changing because of global warming.

oping countries to develop as sustainable societies and provide finance and technology for their transition to low carbon economies. And alongside this they must sup-

port them in their challenge of adapting to the impacts of climate change – including the challenge of the big melt faced by people of the Greater Himalayan region of Asia.

For more details the Friends of the Earth Australia ‘High Stakes: Climate Change, the Himalayas, Asia and Australia’ report can be found here: www.thebigmelt.org

“We demand climate justice. Many countries in Asia are the least responsible for global warming yet rich countries’ pollution is already harming our economy, environment and societies.”

Prakash Sharma, executive director of Pro-Public Nepal (Friends of the Earth Nepal).



Undermining climate justice – the influence of corporate interests

Major corporations and polluters are lobbying to undermine negotiations for a just climate agreement. They advance their own interests at the expense of the interests of people and the planet

Politicians negotiating global action to fight climate change are under a lot of pressure to act: thousands of activists, bloggers, campaigners and concerned citizens from all continents are demanding climate justice – real emissions cuts, real assistance for developing countries, and real changes to the way our society is run.

But it’s not just a one-way flood: climate negotiators are also pressured by hundreds of lobbyists from the corporate sector trying to ensure that any agreement promotes the interests of big business before the interests of people and climate justice. Corporations are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on untransparent lobbying to prevent a strong and just international climate agreement. These groups and lobbyists have a strong financial interest in maintaining the *status quo* at the expense of those who will suffer most from climate change. They have the economic power and political connections to make their voices heard.

Examples of successful business lobbying on climate change are plentiful. In the European Union, the Fuel Quality Directive was vigorously opposed by oil industry group EUROPIA, whose members include BP, ExxonMobil and Shell. The Directive would have required

oil companies to cut their emissions by 10% between 2010 and 2020 – a conservative target, the majority of which could be met through a reduction in gas flaring. Even so, EUROPIA argued that the oil industry was not responsible for the greenhouse-gas intensity of fossil fuels, and that they should be allowed to meet all their emissions targets through the use of agrofuels.

“Climate negotiations are attended by hundreds of lobbyists from the corporate sector”

At the UN, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has caused controversy. It was designed to allow western companies and governments to offset their pollution by investing in climate change mitigation projects in developing countries. Actual emissions reductions have proved impossible to calculate, as many of the projects might have happened even without the CDM funds. However, these investments have generated huge profits and ‘pollution permits’ for corporations. And still the International Emissions Trading Association, made up of Rio Tinto, Total, Shell (again!), Mitsubishi and Barclays,

amongst others, is calling for “more flexible” CDM rules and lower standards for polluting industry projects.

Across the world, power companies are calling for governments to support them in developing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, from E.ON in the UK, to Sasol in South Africa, to...yes, Shell again, this time in Canada. This technology, which attempts to ‘capture’ CO₂ emissions and pump them underground, is untested on a large scale. It is not known whether it can be commercialised rapidly enough given the urgency of phasing out existing fossil fuel plants, but is being used by companies and governments as an excuse to continue pumping out greenhouse gases and even to build a new generation of so-called ‘CCS ready’ coal-fired power plants which once built will lock society into carbon-intensive power generation.

The ability of corporations to push false solutions and challenge real solutions is helped by the close relationship that has developed between business leaders and politicians.

Even the UN climate conferences themselves receive support from companies like BMW, Honda, Volvo, Mercedes-Benz and Scan-



dinavian Airlines, whose core business involves the creation of massive amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. Corporations look to climate change negotiations to achieve the same thing that they want from all their other activities – profit. Proven and effective methods for tackling climate change are ignored, as are the impacts of rising sea levels or changing weather patterns on people in the global south. The only things that matter are market shares and profit margins.

Friends of the Earth International wants to see an end to the privileged access and influence over decision makers that is granted to corporations and business lobby groups. Major corporations and polluters will continue lobbying to undermine negotiations for a just climate agreement, and will continue to advance their own interests at the expense of the interests of

people and the planet. But, their desire for ‘business as usual’ should not be considered more important than the desire of millions of ordinary people around the world to live in a safe environment. Decisions on climate change need to be made in the interests of people and the planet, not corporations and their profits.

Politicians should face pressure, but not behind closed doors by corporations seeking to protect their profits and promote false climate solutions. The power and influence of corporations needs to be resisted and their lobbying attempts need to be exposed, so that just and fair solutions to the climate challenge can be found.

By Steven Heywood, Friends of the Earth Europe

For more information visit: www.foeurope.org/corporates

“Those who are responsible for climate change should be the first to take action.”
– Ricardo Navarro, Friends of the Earth El Salvador

Agrofuels and climate change: the global paradox

Agrofuels are a false solution to climate change. Their production often violates people's rights and threatens the capacity of local people and ecosystems to cope with the effects of climate change. We need truly sustainable, community-based solutions

Testimony of Friends of the Earth International's agrofuels campaign coordinator, Torry Kuswardono, Indonesia

I was shocked when I read the news last year that two palm oil smallholder farmers from Sumatra, Indonesia, had committed suicide. Palm oil, increasingly produced to meet the growing international demand for agrofuels, had slumped to its lowest ever price. The hopes of farmers, who grew palm trees to make a better life for themselves, were collapsing. These hopes were based on the promise of the future market of agrofuels – driven by the misguided belief that rich countries can continue their over-consuming ways and simply replace fossil fuels with fuels from crops. That day, alarmingly, the price of food was rising, while the price of commodities was falling. Farmers who had shifted their crops from food to fuels cried out: the fear of hunger was upon them.

What will you eat if you live in an ocean of palm trees? When I travelled to regions of Colombia where oceans of palm trees exist, I saw the same picture. Land-grabbing is rampant. Land traditionally used by local communities is being leased or sold to outside investors from corporations and governments who see an opportunity to get rich on agrofuels. The ability of people to provide food for themselves is vanishing – all the arable land has

been grabbed for palm plantations. When farmers want to keep their land, they are forced to plant palm. Palm industries even drain wetlands to expand their monoculture plantations.

When the food price crisis occurred in 2008, international agencies warned that competition for land between food and fuels would soon be problematic. On many local levels, it is no longer a warning – it has already happened. Those people who live in areas where palm is cultivated suffer because of the rise in food prices, yet, there is no more land remaining to cultivate food crops – even for subsistence.

Reports by recognised international agencies mean nothing in the field: land-grabbing, deforestation and forest conversions for agrofuel development continue, particularly in developing countries. A report by the International Food Policy Research Institute in April 2009 described how millions of hectares all over the world have been grabbed for palm oil production. Remarkably, governments of southern countries support colossal land-grabbing. Indonesia targeted an expansion of up to 20 million hectares for palm oil to add to existing non-fuel production by 2020;



A recently cleared area for oil palm plantations in Sumatra, Indonesia, where only 3% of the original rainforest remains.

Madagascar designated 1.3 million hectares of land for agrofuels in 2008.

Despite the body of evidence, the majority of policy-makers still believe that agrofuels are a solution to climate change. But, agrofuels are a false solution. Supporters still believe agrofuels can be produced sustainably, without consideration for their negative social and environmental effects, deforestation and the loss of biodiversity caused by monocultures, the corresponding decrease in the capacity of local ecosystems to cope with climate change, and the problem of competition for arable land.

Additionally, agrofuels need a lot of water, making competition for water unavoidable.

They push out local food production essential to sustainable liveli-

hoods. Sustainability at a local level means the ability to cope with social, environmental, and economic shock. Once monoculture plantations occupy the land the capacity for food-crop production drops.

Agrofuel development is a global paradox. It is promoted as a solution to climate change, because it is assumed to reduce carbon emissions and offer a replacement to dirty fossil fuels, yet in reality it has severe impacts on the social and ecological capacity of many parts of the world to tackle the effects of climate change.

Agrofuels development only benefits rich industrialised countries, private investors and major polluters who want to continue business as usual, while millions who have had their land taken suffer.

Rather than false solutions that violate people's rights and will not solve the climate crisis we need truly sustainable, community-based solutions. Agrofuels generate profits for developed countries and private investors, and keep control of global land and energy resources in the hands of a privileged minority. Rather than pushing this false solution, developed countries need to recognise and repay their climate debt – the debt that rich nations have to developing ones because they have emitted the vast majority of the greenhouse gases currently in the atmosphere, far more than their 'fair share'.

To repay this climate debt, rich countries must implement immediate and rapid emissions reductions, just and effective financial flows, measures to address deforestation combined with policies and initiatives to protect forests and appropriate technology transfer – excluding false solutions like plantations and agrofuels.

REDD alert in Costa Rica

Trading in forests has no part to play in a just international agreement to tackle climate change

By Dominic Murphy, Editor of Earthmatters at Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The rainforest teems with wild-life as Javier Baltodano makes his way along the treacherous roads which lead into the mountainous interior of Costa Rica. As the coordinator of Friends of the Earth Costa Rica's forests campaign, most of Baltodano's time is spent deep in the rainforest, visiting one of the five remaining forest communities who he is working with to protect their way of life against encroaching pineapple plantations which have made Costa Rica the world's largest producer.

Yet the traditional way of life of these indigenous communities is under threat not just from the expansion of pineapple plantations, but also, ironically, a scheme being promoted to tackle climate change.

One of the biggest threats of the initiative – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) – is that it would allow industrialised countries to offset

their emissions by buying 'carbon credits' from developing country governments like Costa Rica. With deforestation responsible for nearly one fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions, REDD is designed to stop deforestation in its tracks and prevent more carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere – which, at 1,000 tonnes a hectare, is crucial to tackling climate change.

“REDD will not protect forests, and will not deliver climate justice”

Furthermore, REDD will not protect forests, and will not deliver climate justice. It will simply allow developed countries to continue polluting as usual when what is needed is urgent domestic emissions reductions – at least 40% by 2020 on 1990 levels – if we're to

avoid the very worst effects of climate change.

“Here in Costa Rica we are totally opposed to carbon offsetting,” says Javier Baltodano. “It will do nothing to tackle climate change or protect indigenous people here.” He adds, “We are already seeing heavier downpours during the rainy season which are causing landslides. At the other extreme, climate change is contributing to drier conditions in Northern Costa Rica, which is now so intense it is now killing cattle. Small farmers are literally losing their livelihoods.”

Even worse, the scheme would enable pineapple plantations, which are putting at risk the way of life of Indigenous peoples in Costa Rica, to encroach on more of the country's rainforest. Written into the small print of the proposal is a clause which would allow 'monoculture plantations' to count, for the purposes of buying forest credits, the same as pristine rainforest. This is despite the fact they store only 20% of the carbon, not to mention the hundreds of tonnes released when destroying the forest and the destruction of forest peoples' homes and livelihoods. It also rewards those engaged in deforestation, and undermines local commu-



Plantations are not forests: demonstrating against REDD in Bonn

nities' territorial and cultural rights.

Instead, Friends of the Earth Costa Rica is campaigning for indigenous peoples to have the right to govern their own communities within the forest – a practice known as 'community forest governance'. This ensures it is managed responsibly and prevents further inroads being made by multinationals. The communities work to conserve the forest, recognising they coexist with it rather than seeing it as simply a resource to be plundered for profit.

This approach works for the benefit of all. It enables Indigenous peoples to guarantee their livelihoods for generations to come, without the fear of their land being turned over to plantations; their knowledge and traditional use of the forest is preserved and the rainforest remains intact. It also ensures that any commercial exploitation does not destroy the forest and is proof that Indigenous groups can – and should – be entrusted with protecting a priceless resource for the benefit of us all.

“Vi har kun en jord, og det er på tide, vi begynder at handle derefter.”
– Line Kirk, talsperson for NOAH Energi og Klima



CCS – endnu en ikke-løsning

Syv argumenter mod CCS

Tid. CCS vil ikke blive udviklet før 2020 - og kan ikke levere nødvendige reduktioner i tide.

Energieffektivitet og klimaeffekt. Det vil kræve 40 % mere energi at fange 85 % af CO₂'en. Hertil kommer et betydeligt energibehov i forbindelse med bygning af anlæg, transport og injektion i undergrunden.

Alt i alt vil kun to tredjedele af udledningerne kunne undgås. Den tredjedel som ikke indfanges vil alene kunne overskride det tilbageværende 'budget', der er til rådighed, hvis temperaturstigningen skal holdes under 2 grader.

Miljø. Hvis man begynder at investere kæmpesummer i CCS-anlæg (de er lige så store som de kraftværksanlæg de skal virke sammen med!), så er det ensbetydende med, at man forlænger kulalderen med mange årtier. Kul er skyld i omfattende skader på menneskers helbred og på miljøet gennem brydning, transport, afbrænding og affaldsprodukter.

CCS vil forøge behovet for kølevand med op til 130 %, og det egentlige vandforbrug vil stige med op til 90 %. Det vil være et stort problem alle de steder, hvor ferskvand bruges til køling.

Finansiering. Der vil være brug for enorme offentlige tilskud, for at CCS kan blive udviklet. I Danmark har både DONG og Vattenfall opgivet at gå videre, da der ikke er udsigt til statstilskud - og da ingen af EU's tilskud til demonstrationsanlæg gik til Danmark.

Energiplanlægning. CCS er kun realistisk i forbindelse med store

punktkilder, især kraftværker. Dvs. at CCS vil cementere en centralistisk energiforsyning, der spiller dårligt sammen med udbygning af vedvarende energi, der naturligt svinger med vind og sol.

Lageransvar. Kommende generationer vil arve ansvaret for lagrene og de udgifter der er forbundet med vedligeholdelse, overvågning og evt. forholdsregler i forbindelse med udslip.

CDM. Hvis CCS bliver tilladt under CDM som en aktivitet, der kan generere kreditter, vil de rige landes hjemlige reduktioner aftage.

Det vil være de teknologisk mest udviklede blandt udviklingslandene, der vil få de fleste projekter—og den allerede eksisterende skævhed i CDM vil blive øget.

NOAH has been monitoring plans to apply controversial Carbon Capture and Storage technology in Denmark. Power utility Vattenfall has been planning to equip a part of the coal fired power plant Nordjyllandsværket with CCS. Plans that are presently shelved due to lack of public funding (from the EU). These plans met with strong resistance from local residents in the area where the storage was planned.

NOAH has published an English version of its CCS-critical website: www.ccs-info.org

Solar energy on Danish soil 150.000 PJ/year.

Energy consumption in Denmark 680 PJ/year.



NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark - 40 års engagement

NOAH blev stiftet i 1969. I fire årtier har tusinder af aktive brugt deres tid og energi, deres fantasi og viden, engagement og solidaritet til at bringe væsentlige spørgsmål ind i den offentlige debat - tit før andre, som regel med en radikal synsvinkel. NOAH's kendemærke har altid været at se på helheden, både når det gælder

det gælder miljø og samfund.

Vand, luftkvalitet, vedvarende energi, trafik, madforurening, atomkraft, bæredygtighed, gensplejsning, miljømæssigt råderum, agrobrændstoffer, CCS og nu behovet for en stærk klimalov. Det er nogle af de områder, hvor NOAH har sat sit præg.

I 1986 blev NOAH medlem af Friends of the Earth International - et fantastisk græsrodsnetværk!
www.noah.dk



Klima SOS – kampagnen for en stærk klimalov i Danmark.

En klimalov skal sikre årlige reduktioner i udledningen af drivhusgasser på mindst 6 %.

Klimaloven skal sikre, at lovgivning og planlægning foregår under hensyntagen til denne målsætning.

Udviklingen af den vedvarende energi har stået i stampe i en årrække. Men den kan sættes i gang igen. Danmark kan blive fossilfri i 2030.

NOAH Energi og Klima har udarbejdet et forslag til en energihandlingsplan, som viser en måde, hvorpå det kan ske.

Klima SOS er en af 17 samtidige

kampagner i lige så mange lande i Europa.

I Storbritannien førte kampagnen - The Big Ask - til vedtagelsen af verdens første klimalov med årlige emissionsreduktioner - og Skotland er fulgt efter med en lov, der skal sikre 42 % reduktion i 2020.

Skotterne siger: "If we can do it - so can you!"

www.klima-sos.dk



NOAH is campaigning for a strong climate legislation in Denmark that can deliver **annual cuts of at least 6%** in greenhouse gas emissions.

Read about the new EU-27 "40% study" from Friends of the Earth Europe and Stockholm Environment Institute on page 2

Drivhusgasbudgettet er meget stramt

For at vide, hvor meget vi skal reducere udledningerne med, skal vi vide, hvor meget vi overhovedet kan tillade os at udlede. Videnskaben er blevet mere og mere klar på, hvor lille det 'budget' er. Den korte historie er, at de globale udledninger skal toppe i løbet af ganske få år.

Figuren herunder fra Copenhagen Diagnosis illustrerer forskellen på,

om udledningerne toppe i 2011, i 2015 eller i 2020. Forudsat at vi ønsker at have en 75 % chance for at undgå temperaturstigninger på mere end 2 grader!

Hvis udledningerne toppe i 2011, skal vi reducere med 3,7 % om året. Hvis vi venter bare til 2015, skal vi reducere med 5,3 % om året—og hvis vi venter til 2020 skal vi reducere med 9 % om året.

Det skal ses i lyset af, at verden har haft umådelig svært ved at leve op til målene i den første Kyoto-periode på 5 % globale reduktioner - over en periode på 15 år!

Hvis kurven først toppe i 2015, bliver opgaven altså at reducere med mere end det hvert år i 35 år.

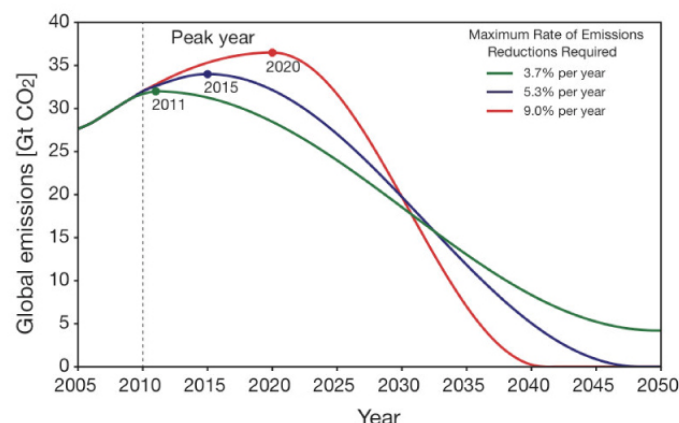


Figure 22: Emissions pathways to give 75% chance of limiting global warming to 2°C

